NEW YORK TIMES DECEMBER 27, ~~1976~~

371

R

Beirut Slaying Alarms Palestinians

Special to The New York Times

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Dec. 26—Security for the protection of Palestinian guerrilla leaders has been tightened here following the assassination of a prominent member of the militant Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and his wife, who was also an active member of the group.

The Popular Front, which is led by Dr. George Habash, vowed in a statement issued last night to find and strike down the assassins.

The statement said that Abdel Wahhab al-Sayyed, a member of the Popular Front's central committee, and his wife, Khaldiyah Khalid, were murdered "by treacherous hands." It gave no specific details as to what had happened to the couple, but blamed a "conspiratorial power" for the assassinations. That "power" was not identified.

Wife's Sister Found Bodies

The couple, both 30 years old, were apparently cut down by unidentified gunmen at their residence in Moslem-controlled western Beirut. The wife was the sister of Leila Khalid, a Popular Front activist, who discovered the bodies, according to neighbors. Miss Khalid participated in a number of aircraft hijackings six years ago.

Involved in Clashes With As Saiqa

The slain man, comparatively unknown publicly, was in charge of the political indoctrination of Popular Front fighters. Mr. Sayyed, originally from the Israeli-occupied town of Gaza, was educated in Egypt and acted for a time as a link between the Popular Front and Arab governments that support the "rejection front," such as Iraq and Southern Yemen.

The Popular Front heads the "rejectionists" in the Palestinian ranks who refuse any Middle East settlement short of dismantling Israel as a nation.

During the last week, the "rejection front" was involved in heavy clashes with members of the Syrian-sponsored guerrilla group As Saiqa in Palestinian camps here. The dispute is turning into a sharp confrontation, with the main Palestinian group, Al Fatah, acting as mediator.

Mr. Sayyed's assassination is the most serious since the Israel raid into Beirut in April 1973 in which three guerrilla leaders were killed in their homes.

The murder of Mr. And Mrs. Sayyed took place Friday, but the Popular Front only disclosed it in its statement—a eulogy for the victims—last night.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Quinlan DATE 5-9-93
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH.
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

Coordinator
~~Deputy Coordinator~~
Assistant Coordinator
~~Intern~~

PFLP